

REMARKS

Pending Claims

Claims 1-5 have been amended and are currently pending.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and receipt of the priority document.

Specification

Applicants have amended the specification in certain instances to correct a typographical error with respect to the spelling of "disk".

35 U.S.C. §112

Applicants have amended claims 1-5 to overcome the claim objections and to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection of the claims. In particular, Applicants refer to Fig. 3, which shows a reagent disk 103 having a plurality of reagent vessels or reagent bottles 4. Each reagent vessel may contain a different one of plural kinds of liquid reagents. The claims have been amended to state that

the plural reagent vessels are each for containing one of plural kinds of liquid reagents.

With respect to the stirring, the specification sets forth that a stirring rod conducts the stirring and therefore the claims have been amended as suggested in the Office Action. Also, the stirring is disclosed as being conducted for a predetermined period of time by the rotation of the motor 2 (Fig. 2B). See page 16, lines 16-18 of the specification, for example. Therefore, the claims have been amended to refer to a predetermined period of stirring time rather than a stirring time interval, which expression was objected to in the Office Action.

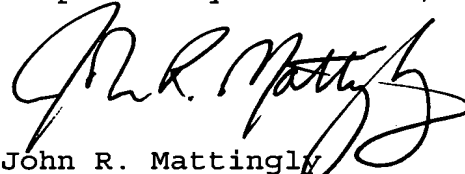
35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 3 has been amended in a manner consistent with claims 1, 2, 4 and 5, which were indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, claim 3, as amended, should also be found to be allowable. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) of claim 3 as being anticipated by Raymoure (WO 93/20444) should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants contend that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Mattingly", written over the printed name.

John R. Mattingly
Registration No. 30,293
Attorney for Applicant(s)

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR, & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.
1800 Diagonal Rd., Suite 370
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1120
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